

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 461
By Harper

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Jim Foster and the 1995-1996 Vanderbilt University women's basketball team.

WHEREAS, with the thunderous refrain of "Dynamite", "Dynamite" ringing triumphantly in their ears from the friendly confines of Memorial Gymnasium, and even on the road, the excellent Vanderbilt University women's basketball team has firmly established themselves as one of a select few teams that will be in contention for national recognition each year; and

WHEREAS, Vanderbilt won the MCI-First American Classic impressively, beating Wingate 111-40 and Rutgers 79-53; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Commodores won the Naismith Classic game by defeating North Carolina State 93-61 on national television; and

WHEREAS, they next defeated the then-number-1 ranked and eventual national runner-up Georgia Lady Bulldogs 71-66, the first time Vandy has beaten a top-ranked team; and

WHEREAS, despite playing in the unquestioned best conference in the country, a conference that sent an incredible seven teams to the NCAA Tournament, this tremendously talented team finished in the top three of the Southeastern Conference for the fourth consecutive season; and

WHEREAS, in the fabled Mideast Regional played at Memorial Gym, they beat Harvard 100-83 in the first round, held March 15, 1996, and Wisconsin 96-82 in the second round, played March 17, 1996; and

WHEREAS, by advancing to the NCAA Tournament “Sweet 16” round for the seventh straight season, the Lady Commodores became one of only four teams in the nation to have done so; and

WHEREAS, in the regional semifinals, played at Rosemont Horizon, in Rosemont, Illinois, on March 23, 1996, Vanderbilt beat Iowa 74-63, placing them among the “Elite Eight”; and

WHEREAS, they then lost to defending national champion Connecticut in the regional finals, just one step away from the prestigious Final Four round; and

WHEREAS, they won 23 games, the fifth consecutive season they have won more than 20 games, and despite one of the toughest schedules in the country, still only had eight losses; and

WHEREAS, the authoritative *USA Today* Final National Poll had Vanderbilt ranked as the seventh best team in the country; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded **Head Coach Jim Foster**, who also served admirably as Acting Athletic Director and capable **Assistant Coaches Debbie Patterson, Kamie Ethridge** and **Terri McMorrow**, have done an outstanding job, this season and overall, in building one of the best programs in the country; and

WHEREAS, sensational sharpshooting senior forward **Sheri Sam** put on an awesome display of basketball prowess, particularly in the NCAA Tournament, and became the school’s third Kodak All-American, the most prestigious of the All-America squads, and she was also specially recognized with a coveted spot of honor as a member of the college All-Star team chosen to play the USA National team; and

WHEREAS, junior guard **Michelle Palmisano** and junior center **Angela Gorsica** were named to the Academic All-District team. For the second straight year Michelle was named an Academic All-American. She has a 3.99 Grade Point Average, majoring in biomedical engineering; and

WHEREAS, each of the other players on this star-studded but unselfish squad, seniors, center **Mara Cunningham** and guard **Ginger Jared**; sophomores, forward **Na'Sheema Hillmon**, guard **Danielle Louis** and guard-forward **Lisa Ostrom**; and freshmen, center **Katie Janky**, guard-forward **Beth Ostendorf**, guard **Nettie Respondek** and guard **Paige Redman**; have contributed to a balanced scoring attack; and

WHEREAS, trainer **Ann Louise** and **Vicki Spine**, Administrative Assistant for Basketball, have been very supportive of the team's efforts; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we specially recognize, congratulate and commemorate the Lady Commodores in this the "Year of the SEC" in women's collegiate sports; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Jim Foster and the 1995-1996 Vanderbilt University women's basketball team, a team in which we can all take pride for their many accomplishments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and to each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copies.

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